

knows, always originate from the *ventral face* of the digestive tube, whatever their position may be in the splanchnic cavity, and it is always on the ventral side of the pharynx that the opening of the glottis is found; it is the same with the *Lepidosiren*; and if the resemblance between the lungs of all these animals and the air-bladder of the *Lepisosteus* and of the *Amia* was as great as Mr. Owen seems to think it is, we ought to find this same character of organic relationship between the œsophagus and the bladder of these fish. Now it is quite the contrary, for the kind of pseudo-glottis which establishes the communication between this cellular pouch and the digestive tube originates from the *dorsal face* of the œsophagus. There exists then a fundamental anatomical difference between these parts, whatever else may be their physiological functions, and this difference furnishes a fresh argument in favour of the opinion of those who consider the *Lepidosiren* as a Reptile.

I shall also add, that in the *Lepidosiren paradoxa* the abdominal viscera which, for the most part, were wanting in the individuals dissected by M. Bischoff, greatly resembled those of the *Lepidosiren annectens*, whose structure Mr. Owen has made known. M. Bibron and myself have sought there in vain for the traces of a pancreas and of a spleen, and the spiral valve of the intestine appeared to us to be still more developed than in the *Lepidosiren annectens*.

LV.—*Information respecting Zoological and Botanical Travellers.*

THE expedition under Mr. Schomburgk, appointed at the expense of Government, to survey the boundaries of British Guiana, has sailed for Demerara. Messrs. Glascott, R.N., and Mr. Walton accompany it, the first as assistant-surveyor, the latter as artist; but unless we are misinformed, there is no naturalist or collector on the part of this country,—Mr. Richard Schomburgk, brother to the director of the expedition, going out as a naturalist at the expense of the Prussian government and by permission; and thus we fear that the whole fruits, so far as natural history is concerned, of an expedition carried into a rich and partly unknown country at British expense and under British protection, will be carried off to a foreign kingdom, for the want of a person to attend exclusively to that branch, and who could have accompanied the party at comparatively small expense, and under circumstances of advantage of which others have known how to avail themselves. *There is time still to remedy this.*

The “Niger expedition” will also sail in a short time. One of the commanders is already known to be an excellent draughtsman, and

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Dr. Parnell has again returned to Britain after a residence in Jamaica, Cuba, and others of the West Indian Islands. Ornithology and Ichthyology have been chiefly attended to, and large collections in both departments accompany him. In the latter above 300 species have been procured, with a series of drawings recording the natural colours of the specimens. Dr. Parnell has also been entrusted with all the Ichthyological manuscripts and drawings collected by Dr. Bancroft, and altogether materials have been brought home for a History of the Fishes of Jamaica.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Crania Americana, or a comparative view of the Skulls of various Aboriginal Nations of North and South America, to which is prefixed an Essay on the varieties of the Human Species. By S. G. Morton, M.D. Folio, 78 Plates. London : Simpkin and Marshall.

In the present state of Anthropological science, the value of a work of this kind must depend more upon the accuracy of the anatomical facts which it contains, than upon the opinions expressed by its author on the many difficult questions which are still agitated by the cultivators of this interesting department of natural history. Dr. Morton is aware of this, and has produced a work, in which, while he has not neglected to present to his readers, in an ably written introduction, an abstract of the present state of opinions as to the origin of the races and the geographical distribution of man, he has at the same time evidently directed his whole energy to the formation of a series of chapters, containing anatomical delineations, measurements, and descriptions of the crania of more than forty American nations and tribes, ancient and modern.

The manner in which Dr. Morton has recorded the observations which he has had such ample opportunities of making, shows that he is well acquainted with the exact nature of the facts necessary for the further prosecution of this subject. The lithographic drawings of crania are admirable ; the measurements, both of capacity and size (his mode of taking which he describes), precise ; and the information in reference to each variety judiciously selected.

The author divides the pure Americans into three great classes,—those which live by hunting, fishing, and agriculture. The first embraces the great proportion of the race ; the second includes a few tribes in different and far-distant parts of the two continents ; the third contains these nations which had made the greatest advance in civilization, and whose geographical position afforded facilities for agricultural pursuits.

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